

## CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

**Title of publication:** Promised Land

**Other known title(s):** Ziemia Obiecana / The Promised Land

**OFLC ref:** 1800098.000

**Medium:** Film (online)

**Distributor:** Wellington Polish Film Festival Trust

**Director:** Andrzej Wajda

**FVLB Applicant:** Wellington Polish Film Festival Trust

**Producer:** Not stated

**Country of origin:** Poland

**Language:** Polish, German

**Applicant:** Film & Video Labelling Body

<b>Classification:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
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**Excisions:** No excisions recommended

**Descriptive note:** Violence, sex scenes and content that may disturb.

**Display conditions:** None

**Date of entry in Register:** 28 March 2018

**Date of direction to issue a label:** 28 March 2018

**Date of notice of decision:** No notice of decision has been issued

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Ziemia Obiecana	162:41
Total running time:		162:41

### Summary of reasons for decision:

The Promised Land is a 1974 Polish film, the 35mm film version of which was classified R18 by the Chief Censor of Film (see Certificate 36697 (d)). As a significant amount of time has passed since that

classification was given the Classification Office has re-examined the film to evaluate its content under current legislation. Set in Lodz in the early 1900s during Poland's industrial revolution, the film is a lengthy allegorical tale of greed. Its unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good primarily because of its treatment of sex, cruelty and violence. While low in extent, and unrealistically depicted by today's standards, injury and death are bloody, gruesome and unexpected. The impact is increased by the callous cruelty and disregard with which most of the victims are treated and the fact that there are no consequences to those responsible. This is likely to increase how shocking and disturbing it will be to younger viewers who unlikely to understand the allegorical nature of the narrative. The sexual content is similarly low in extent but it is frankly depicted, some of it involving coercion and elements of sexual violence which are likely to give younger viewers a distorted view of adult sexual relationships. However, these harms do not warrant a restriction to adults, particularly given the film's artistic, cultural and social merit. Balancing the likely harms against the right to freedom of expression, R16 is the lowest reasonable limitation on that right which can be applied in order to prevent injury to the public good.